

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAMELA JONES-MORTON, FROM
ESTERO, FLORIDA, AWARDED
THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

HON. TREY RADEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 19, 2013

Mr. RADEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Pamela Jones-Morton for being awarded the Carnegie Medal for her bravery in saving Audrey L. Hart and Colleen M. Page from a burning car in Bonita Springs, Florida. I am submitting a copy of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission's news release which includes Mrs. Jones-Morton's story.

[From the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, June 25, 2013]

Pamela Jones-Morton saved Audrey L. Hart and Colleen M. Page from burning, Bonita Springs, Florida, December 10, 2011. Audrey 3, was the back-seat passenger in the sport utility vehicle drive by her grandmother, Page, 49, that collided with another vehicle and overturned onto its passenger side. Page was suspended, restrained by her safety belt, and Audrey was secured in a child safety seat as flames erupted on the undercarriage of their vehicle. Driving nearby, Jones-Morton, 64, retired educator, witnessed the accident. She approached the sport utility vehicle and attempted to open the only accessible door, at the rear, but it was locked. At Jones-Morton's urging, Page unlocked the doors. Jones-Morton opened the rear door, cleared items from the cargo area, and entered. The only passageway inside the vehicle was between the tops of the seats and the ceiling, and Jones-Morton maneuvered through it, discovering Audrey as she did so. After struggling to release Audrey from her seat, Jones-Morton carried her to the back of the vehicle and stepped outside. She then reentered it for Page. She made her way to the front of the vehicle and released Page's safety belt, Page then falling to the passenger door. The two women made their way to the back of the vehicle and exited. Flames spread quickly, engulfing the vehicle before firefighters arrived.

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition of H.R. 5, the so-called Student Success Act.

H.R. 5 reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), and it is one that we have waited a long time to revisit.

I hoped that we could work together on this bill because all of us care about our children's growth and development. Both Republicans and Democrats share concerns over the rate at which we are falling behind other nations. And whether you are liberal or conservative, we know that we need to hold our schools accountable for their performance.

That is why this bill is so distressing. H.R. 5 is as dysfunctional as anything else that has come to the floor this Congress. It may not be as pointless as the 38th and 39th votes to repeal Obamacare that we had Wednesday. And it may not have been rammed down our throats quite as aggressively as the Farm Bill was last week. But this bill is still a piece of unilateral maneuvering—when we could be working together.

Instead of spending public funds for the public good, H.R. 5 creates a quota system that shifts funds to private schools that are meant to go to low-income children and schools. Along the way to privatizing our public schools, it decreases accountability for states and school districts by block-granting specialized grant programs—allowing funds meant to address specific hardships to be diverted elsewhere.

I will admit to my friends across the aisle, that while I know some in your base may buy into that pipedream—it is not the way to rebuild America. Formalizing the distinctions between our two Americas is not the key to healing our nation. Nor is depriving extra help to students with special learning barriers.

Give our children their future. Give them a bill that will guarantee a 21st century school system to lead the world. I urge my colleagues to use this opportunity for something greater than mere posturing, and oppose this bill.

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my opposition to H.R. 5, the Student Success Act. This bill undermines the fundamental purpose of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which was created to ensure that disadvantaged children are provided a high-quality education that allows them to compete on a level playing field with their more-advantaged peers.

Among its many problematic provisions, this bill locks in devastating sequestration-level education funding, fails to hold States and districts accountable for supporting and improving the achievement of all students, eliminates

and weakens protections for disadvantaged students, and lacks critical support systems for our Nation's educators.

I believe No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is flawed and must be reformed, and reauthorization presents a tremendous opportunity to make much-needed improvements and bring our education system into the 21st century. However, instead of fixing the problems of NCLB, the Student Success Act does not reflect best practices and fails to strike the appropriate balance between flexibility and accountability.

Reauthorization should support college and career-ready standards, address the overuse of testing in teacher and school evaluations that currently forces educators to substitute test preparation for instruction, and feature an accountability system that includes meaningful targets for improving student attainment that gives schools and districts flexibility in how they achieve those goals.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 5 and instead support reauthorization that restores our Nation's commitment to providing equal opportunity for all students regardless of background.

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the legislation on the Floor today, a missed opportunity to reform our education system and ensure that every student has access to a high quality education.

We should be working in a bipartisan manner to correct the widely-acknowledged flaws of No Child Left Behind and make the law more fair, flexible, and responsive to the needs of students. Instead, the bill before us shortchanges our schools and eliminates supports for our most vulnerable populations.

We should be providing the resources our schools need to fix the achievement gap and put a good, supported teacher in every classroom. Instead, today's bill locks in post-sequestration funding levels for K–12 education and cuts back on professional development.

We should be setting high expectations for our schools and giving States flexibility to create accountability systems that improve achievement for every student. Instead, this legislation eliminates requirements for districts to fix struggling schools and ensure that all students make it to graduation.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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